
From: Sam Bowman [<mailto:>] **On Behalf Of** Sam Bowman
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Johnson, Kenneth; O'Connell, Terry; Lentz Cliff-on-sbcglobal; Conway, Clarke; Liu, Lori; Miller, Ray
Cc: .
Subject: Comment in advance of the hearing on the Baylands project

Dear Planning Commissioners and Members of the City Council,

I may not be able to attend the next hearing on the Baylands project, but I have a comment that I'd like to submit:

When I was in middle school and high school around 2000, I lived with my mother in Brisbane at Visitacion and Alvarado. I loved the community there, and I'm sad that I couldn't have stayed longer. In 2003, my mother started developing what turned out to be serious chronic autoimmune problems, and had to stop working. She couldn't afford the rent where she was, and had to look for someplace that was affordable on a fixed social security disability income. Nothing in Brisbane was feasible, and she didn't have the savings that it would have taken to live here for years on waiting lists for nearby subsidized housing options, so she left the Bay Area. I'm lucky to have wound up living just a few miles away as a graduate student at Stanford, but I wish we hadn't had to leave.

There are many good things to be said about transit-centered housing development, in general, and the Bay Area certainly could use more. For me though, this is more personal. This is a small but significant step towards mitigating the incredible demands that have been placed on the area's small housing stock, and a small but significant step towards making sure more people like my mother have the option to stay.

Yours,

Sam Bowman